

ACTION ITEM

2017-2021 Science Action Agenda

Summary: The 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda (SAA) is one of three strategic elements identified in the Delta Science Plan of 2013 (Action 2.2) to advance the vision of the *One Delta, One Science* concept. Dr. Cliff Dahm, Lead Scientist for the Delta Science Program, and Delta Science Program staff will discuss the final draft of the 2017-2021 SAA with the Council, present it to the Council, and ask the Council to accept the 2017-2021 SAA.

Requested Action

Staff requests that the Council receive and accept the 2017-2021 SAA.

Background

The attached final draft is the first full SAA completed as required in Action 2.2 of the Delta Science Plan. The 13 priority science actions presented in the document fill critical knowledge gaps and provide “glue” for bringing the Delta science enterprise together to advance the *One Delta, One Science* vision of the Delta Science Plan.

The priority actions are organized into five thematic science action areas:

- 1) Invest in assessing the human dimensions of natural resource management decisions;
- 2) Capitalize on existing data through increasing science synthesis;
- 3) Develop tools and methods to support and evaluate habitat restoration;
- 4) Improve understanding of interactions between stressors and managed species and their communities; and
- 5) Modernize monitoring, data management, and modeling.

Collectively, these priority actions help to address science needs to support achieving the coequal goals as identified in the Delta Plan. The SAA details each action area and discusses how the agenda can be used to promote collaborative science, improve efficiencies in science planning, and coordinate investments in critical science investigations and science infrastructure.

The SAA’s priority science actions were identified through an open and transparent prioritization process that involved input from the Delta science community and stakeholders, major synthesis efforts, peer-reviewed literature, and the Delta Independent Science Board (Delta ISB). Comments and feedback on the draft 2017-2021 SAA were received through meetings with collaborative groups (e.g., Delta Regional Monitoring Program, Interagency Ecological Program, and State and Federal

Contractors Water Agency) and a review by the Delta ISB. Public comment also was solicited on the draft through the Delta Science Program website and listserv.

In response to the recommendations of the Delta ISB and public comments, a final draft 2017-2021 SAA was completed on July 17, 2017 (Attachment 1). Dr. Dahm and Delta Science Program staff will provide a summary of this final draft, including its development process, and anticipated next steps to implement the SAA.

Staff requests that the Council receive and accept the final draft and authorize the Lead Scientist and staff to use their discretion to make minor conforming changes for purposes of clarification and harmonization. This final version will have an improved design, be referred to as the "2017-2021 Science Action Agenda", and will be posted on the Council's website.

At least annually, the Delta Lead Scientist will report to the Council about implementation of the 2017-2021 SAA.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: Proposed Final Draft 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda

Contact

Dr. Cliff Dahm
Lead Scientist

Phone: (916) 445-0463